

March 16, 1962

Dr. Ralph Cleland
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Ralph:

Thanks for your comments in our telephone conversation, and for sending the reprints to the New York meeting. They arrived there very satisfactorily and I am sure contributed to the discussion. I believe the success of the science newspaper idea depends very much on its being tied to a national library which can furnish additional archival and indexing services. In this light, the whole system should have many attractions and the problems now are mainly political ones. But Senator Humphreys' insistent pressure will, I am sure, have a salutary effect and I am quite confident that something will come out of this if a reasonable degree of enthusiastic pressure is maintained. The administrators of various Washington agencies are going to invent all kinds of anticipated objections on the part of the scientific community which, I now suspect, are much more imagined than real. But some way will have to be found of demonstrating scientists' support for such a proposal, and there might be some point to energizing the NRC committee in this direction. But I just don't think we can afford to continue to temporize the way such committees have for so many years in the past. Nor do I think we can safely entrust the problem of scientific communication or of basic policy within it to the existing vested interests who may be overlooking the most compelling needs of the laboratory worker.

Cleland

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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